(d) On what basis can the Indo-German relations may be called friendly in this background ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

National consensus on Economic Reforms

1048. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister did speak of national consensus on 'economic reforms' in India at the International Economic Forum at Davos;

(b) whether in doing so he was unmindful of opposition from the various opposition parties regarding the sell out of the country's interests in the name of economic reforms and liberalisation ;

(c) whether it is not a fact that most of the trade unions and peasants' organisations opposed the economic reforms and liberalisation on the same ground; and

(d) whether under such circumstances national consensus on economic reforms could be claimed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (d) In his concluding remarks at the India session in the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos Prime Minister referred to a "general consensus" on economic reforms. This is in keeping with the fact that the new economic policies have been discussed in Parliament and various measures under it have been approved by Parliament. The emphasis has been on a reform programme with a human face. A copy of the speech that PM delivered at the valedictory session of the World Economic Forum is attached for information.

Election of Ambassadors

1049. SHRI TINDIVANAN G. VENKATARAMAN :
SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the norms followed in the election of Ambassadors of India in the arena;

(b) whether they are given any training before they join their appointment as ambassadors ;

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred on our Embassies throughout world during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93; and

(d) what is the type of information that is entrusted to our Ambassadors abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) :

(a) Ambassadors are not elected. The norms followed for the selection of Ambassadors are the possession of requisite experience, skill, and acumen to promote relations between India and the country of accreditation.

(b) They are provided intensive briefings in Ministry of External Affairs and concerned Government agencies prior to taking up their charge. Foreign Service officers, are groomed for this responsibility through their careers in the foreign service.

(c) 1990-91	Rs. 149.09 Cr.
1991-92	Rs. 202.98 Cr.
1992-93	Rs. 297.35 Cr.

(d) All the information relevant to his functioning as Ambassador is entrusted to our Ambassadors abroad.

US State Deptt's Humam Rights Report on India

1050. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the human rights report released by

the US State Department, on the eve of UN Human Rights Conference at Geneva, commenting on India that "Despite extensive Constitutional safeguards, significant human rights abues persist through India" and that "the abuses are aggravated by servere social tensions" adding that "abuses are particularly acute in disturbed areas, such as Punjab and Kashmir, where judicial system has broken down in the face of terrorist threats"; and

(b) if so, whether Government have reacted to the disinformation spread thereby, if so in what terms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):(a) Yes sir.

(b) Government have on a continuing basis been impressing upon the US Government that India's commitment to human rights is second to none. Government remain committed to safeguarding the human rights of its innocent and law abiding citizens. The National Human Rights Commission has started functioning and India has also permitted access to certain international non-governmental organisations. Government's efforts to restore normalcy in J & K are being hindered by Pakistan's continuing support to terrorism in India.

Pakistan's Letter to UN Secretary General's Spekesman on Kashmir

1051. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention ha been drawn to the report which appeared in the Times of India dated January 27, 1994 to the effect that Pakistan has circulated a concocted letter attributed to the spokesman of the UN Secretary General questioning the Indian position on UN resolutions on Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what steps have since been taken to set the matters right both in UN and diplomatic circles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The High Commission of Pakistan in Mauritius had issued a Press Release quoting the Spokesman for the UN Secretary General, questioning the Indian position on UN Resolutions on Kashmir. The Government of India had taken up the matter with the Spokesman of the UN Secretary General, who has in a letter addressed to the Pakistani Mission in the UN categorically denied the statements attributed to him be Pakistan and indicated the factual position. The Spokesman has also asked Pakistan to issue appropriate corrections in locations where the Pakistani press release was issued.

Bilateral Talks with Myanmar

1052. CHOWDHURY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Myanmar's Deputy Foreign Minister visited New Delhi in January 1994 for bilateral talks for normalisation of relations with Myanmar ;

(b) if so, what specific issues were discussed during his visit : and

(c) what are the result to achieved ?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A seven-member Myanmar delegation headed by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Union of Myanmar visited India from 19–24 January, 1994.

(b) The entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed during the visit.

(c) During the visit two agreements were signed namely the Border Trade Agreement to augment and regulate the bilateral trade through the land route across the border and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Civilian Border Authorities aimed at curbing trans-border movement of insurgents, narco-traffickers, smugglers, etc.

Encroachment of Indian Land by Nepal

1053. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 263 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 1993 and state :

(a) at what levels of Government the issue of encroachment of 5000 hectares of Indian